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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION	:	
OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF	:	
	:	Administrative Action
KAFI A. HOWELL, L.P.N.	:	
License No. 26NP06770200	:	FINAL ORDER
	:	OF DISCIPLINE
TO PRACTICE NURSING	:	
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY	:	

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing (the "Board") upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and upon which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Kafi A. Howell ("Respondent") is a licensed practical nurse (L.P.N.) in the State of New Jersey and has been a licensee since March 8, 2012.

2. Respondent was arrested on June 19, 2012 by members of the Livingston Township Police Department and charged with

violating N.J.S.A. 2C:20-11b(2) (Shoplifting). On August 2, 2012, Respondent pled guilty to N.J.S.A. 2C:33-2A (Improper Behavior/Disorderly Conduct) and was assessed fines and costs of four-hundred and fifty-eight dollars (\$458.00).

3. On February 5, 2013, the Board sent Respondent a Consent Order, to her address of record in Irvington, New Jersey, via regular and certified mail, reprimanding Respondent for her guilty plea, and imposing a civil penalty of two-hundred and fifty-dollars (\$250.00). The regular mailing was not returned. The certified letter was returned to the Board as "unclaimed". Respondent did not sign and return the Consent Order.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent's guilty plea to improper behavior/disorderly conduct constitutes a violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21 (f), as Respondent has been convicted of, or engaged in acts constituting, a crime or offense relating adversely to the practice of nursing.

DISCUSSION

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline ("POD") reprimanding Respondent for violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21 (f) and imposing a \$250.00 civil penalty for the violation was entered on June 3, 2014. The POD was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the 30th business day following entry unless Respondent requested a modification or dismissal of the stated Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law by submitting a written request for modification or dismissal setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed and submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting Respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefore.

Ms. Howell responded to the POD and stated that she is seeking legal assistance to have the criminal matter expunged from her record. The Board was not persuaded that the submitted materials merited modification of the findings of fact or conclusion of law because the Board already knew about the conviction and the conduct Respondent engaged in and any expungement order would have no effect on the Board's action.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 8 day of January, 2015,
ORDERED that:

1. A reprimand and \$250.00 penalty are hereby imposed for Respondent's violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21 (f).
2. Payment shall be made by money order, bank cashier check or certified check, made payable to the State of New Jersey or by wire transfer, direct deposit or credit card payment delivered or mailed to George Hebert, Executive Director, State Board of Nursing, P.O. Box 45010, Newark, New Jersey 07101. Any other form of payment will be returned to the party making payment. Payment shall be due no later than fifteen (15) days after the filing of this Final Order of Discipline. In the event Respondent fails to make a timely payment, a certificate of debt shall be filed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 45:1-24 and the Board may bring such other proceedings as authorized by law.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING
By: Patricia Murphy
Patricia Murphy, PhD, AEN
Board President